

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, GN
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR NUCLEAR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES; CHRISTMAS,

BIKINI, MARSHALL, ETC., ISLANDS, SOUTH PACIFIC

1. THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, CENTRE FOR APPLIED
STUDIES IN DEVELOPMENT, DR. DEREK MEDFORD, PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
HAS BEEN AWARDED A CONTRACT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GILBERT ISLANDS
TO MAKE AN ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS FOR CHSISTMAS ISLAND.
BASIC TO THE STUDY ARE FINDINGS ON THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACT OF
BRITISH AND U.S. NUCLEAR TESTING IN THAT AREA (ENEWETAK ATOLL,
BIKINI, CHRISTMAS ISLAND, MARSHALL ISLANDS, ETC.) IN YEARS
PAST. TEXT OF DR. MEDFORD'S REQUEST TO US FOLLOWS:

2. "... I HAVE RECEIVED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
THE FOLLOWING CABLE FROM THE GILBERTS' GOVERNMENT: 'GOVERNMENT
HAS FORMALLY APPROVED FUTURE SETTLEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY
CHRISTMAS ISLAND TERSMS OF REFERENCE. THESE ARE AS AGREED...
MEDFORD. PLEASE ADVISE ON LIAISON WITH UN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
AND IF DATES OF RECONNAISSANCE HAVE BEEN AGREED.'

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3. "THIS CABLE MAKES IT EVEN MORE IMPERATIVE THAT I GET GOOD
BASE DATA ON THE STATE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND WHEN BRITISH AND
U.S. NUCLEAR TESTING WERE FINISHED. AFTR REQUETING DATA FROM
YOU AND THE U.K. DIRECTOR OF A.W.R.E. I AM HOPEFUL, AND HAVE
SO FARE BEEN HELPED BY THE ENVORONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(E.I.S.) ON 'CLEANUP, REHABILITATION, RESETTLEMENT OF
ENEWETAK ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS' WHICH WAS SENT TO THE FIJI

GOVERNMENT BY

MAJOR WILLIAM A. KNAPP, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, DEFENSE NUCLEAR
AGENCY, WASHINGTON, D.C.

4. "I WRITE TO ASK WHETHER YOU HAVE MADE ANY PROGRESS IN OBTAINING BACKGROUND DATA ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND OR DATA ON LESSONS LEARNED BY U.S. AGENCIES IN DEALING WITH THE ENWWETAK OR BIKINI TOLL RESETTLEMENTS.

5. "I CONFIDENTIALLY EXPECT A.W.R. E. TO LET ME HAVE DATA BUT THE QUALITY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED E.I.S. (U.S. GOVERNMENT STUDY) AND THE MORE RECENT EXPERIENCED OF THE U.S. IN MOVING PEOPLE AWAY FROM BIKINI, BECAUSE OF THE CESIUM 137, LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THT FOR OUR PURPOSES U.S. DATA WILL BE BEST.

6. "IF I ONLY HAD THE BASELINE BACKGROUND LEVELS ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND AT THE END OF 1963, WHEN THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY WAS SIGNED, I COULD FROM THE ENEWETAK RESULTS, COMPUTE HWHETHER OR NOT THERE WOULD BE ANY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT RADIATION EFFECTS IN THE GILBERTS/CHRISTMAS RESETTLEMENT. THE LATTER BEING A PREFERRED PROCEDURE TO GOING TO CHRSTMAS ISLAND AND WORRYING PEOPLE, MAY B UNNECESSARILY, BY CARRYING OUT SOIL MEASUREMENTS ETC. FOR A BEGINNING I WOULD BE WELL CONTENT WITH LEVELS OF THE ISOTOPES CESIUM-137, STORNTIUM-90 AND PLUTONIUM-239 ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND IN THE LATE SIXTIES."

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7. ACTION REQUESTED: DR. DEREK MEDFORD, A BRITISH SUBJECT PRESENTLY SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR APPLIED STUDIES IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, IS WELL KNOWN IN SCIENTIFIC CIRCLES AND IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY. WE HOPE EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO OBTAIN AND FORWARD, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATA, BY CABLE AND BY AIRMAIL, THE TYPES OF INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THIS IMPORTANT STUDY ON RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS FOR GILBERT AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS. AMONG DATA NEEDED, SOONEST, ARE THE RADIATION LEVEL FINDINGS OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WHICH WERE PREPARED BY THAT CORP IN THE EARLY 1960'S AT THE TIME OF ITS DEPARTURE FROM THE CHRISTMAS ISLAND.
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